

**DESCRIPTION**

Chorro Creek is a tributary to Morro Bay. The Chorro Creek watershed drains approximately 27,670 acres. Sixty percent of the Chorro Creek watershed is classified as rangeland, while twenty percent is brushland. Valley grassland, coastal scrub and oak savanna dominate the watershed, with mixed conifer forest and oak woodlands, and multiple-use farmland low-density residential and commercial uses dominating the upper elevations of the watershed. Steelhead habitat is degraded.

Nitrates and phosphates in Chorro Creek surface water contribute to growth of nuisance algae and decreased dissolved oxygen levels in violation of Basin Plan water quality objectives. Sources include septic systems, fertilizers, urban runoff and animal waste. The Los Osos Community Service District's community wastewater project will also help address this issue.



Chorro Creek Estuary

(Photo courtesy Bobby Jo Close, Central Coast Wetland Working Group).

For more photos, visit:  
<http://www.centralcoastwetlands.org/>.

**REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION**

The Chorro Creek is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area** (Morro Bay State Estuary, and Morro Bay National Estuary Program).

**POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS**

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	<u>2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants</u> TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)				<u>Other Pollutant</u>	
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Fecal Coliform</u>	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Low Dissolved Oxygen</u>	?	
Chorro Creek ▲	▲ Low	▲ High (2002)	▲ High (2002)			
San Bernardo Creek ■	■ Low					
San Luisito Creek •	• Low					
Pennington Creek ♦	♦ Low					
Dairy Creek □	□ Low			□ Low		
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
<b>Agriculture</b>		▲	▲			b
➤ Crop Production		▲	▲			
➤ Agricultural Storm Runoff		▲	▲			b
➤ Range Grazing			▲			
<b>Urban Areas</b>						a
➤ Construction/Land Development			▲			
➤ Road Construction			▲			
➤ Golf Course Activities			▲			

## Chorro Creek CCA

Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued	<u>Fecal Coliform</u>	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Low Dissolved Oxygen</u>	?	Efforts to Address Pollutants
<b>Hydromodification</b>			▲			
➤ Channelization			▲			
➤ Streambank Modification			▲			
➤ Channel Erosion			▲			
➤ Erosion/Siltation			▲			
<b>Resource Extraction</b>			▲			
<b>Unspecified Nonpoint Source</b>			▲			a
<b>Source Unknown</b>	▲ ■ ♦ □			□		
<b>Natural Sources</b>			▲			

### MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

<b>a) Friends of the Estuary at Morro Bay</b>	<a href="http://www.friendsofestyuary.org/">http://www.friendsofestyuary.org/</a>		
	Jerri Chadwick	(805) 528-5800	
➤ Friends of the Estuary seeks to restore, maintain, and enhance the Estuary at Morro Bay. Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to this rare treasure.			
<b>b) Morro Bay On-Farm Coastal Water Quality Implementation Project (Project Clearwater)</b>	<a href="http://www.coastalrcd.org/home.htm">http://www.coastalrcd.org/home.htm</a>		
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District	Linda Chipping	(805) 772-4391	<a href="mailto:lindachipping@yahoo.com">lindachipping@yahoo.com</a>
➤ Provides technical assistance and cost-sharing funds for landowners to install BMPs to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria flow to Morro Bay; landowners participate in "short-courses" and write individual conservation plans.			

### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Morro Bay	<a href="http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/">http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/</a>	Greig Cummings	(805) 772-6266	<a href="mailto:gcummings@morro-bay.ca.us">gcummings@morro-bay.ca.us</a>
➤ County of San Luis Obispo, Environmental Health	<a href="http://www.slopublichealth.org/index.html">http://www.slopublichealth.org/index.html</a>	Marina Michel	(805) 781-5544	
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	<a href="http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html">http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html</a>	Ross Clark	(831) 427-4873	<a href="mailto:rclark@coastal.ca.gov">rclark@coastal.ca.gov</a>
➤ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/</a>	Bill Hoffmann	(805) 772-3834	<a href="mailto:bhoffmann@waterboards.ca.gov">bhoffmann@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/</a>	Steve Fagundes	(916) 341-5487	<a href="mailto:sfagundes@waterboards.ca.gov">sfagundes@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	<a href="http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/">http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/</a>	Terri Nevins	(510) 286-4161	<a href="mailto:tnevins@scc.ca.gov">tnevins@scc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	<a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/</a>	Christine Pattison	(805) 772-0114	<a href="mailto:cpattison@dfg.ca.gov">cpattison@dfg.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=594">http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=594</a>	Vincent Cicero	(805) 927-2185	<a href="mailto:vcice@parks.ca.gov">vcice@parks.ca.gov</a>
➤ U.S. EPA, Morro Bay National Estuary Program	<a href="http://www.mbnep.org/">http://www.mbnep.org/</a>	Dan Berman	(805) 772-3834	<a href="mailto:dberman@mbnep.org">dberman@mbnep.org</a>